

lapel pin and a warm smile on his face, and that is how I'll always remember him. I chose Fred to swear me in at my second inauguration as Governor, and it made the day even more special.

What made Fred's presence so comforting was that he wasn't afraid to admit he didn't know an answer. In fact, when he was elected as Marion County circuit court Judge in 1970, he frequently called upon one of his mentors, Judge Robert Maxwell of Elkins, for help. He followed Judge Maxwell's example and always maintained a good relationship with his colleagues. He had only been out of law school a few years, but because of his compassion, intelligence, and fairness, he was re-elected every 8 years until his retirement in 2010. Young judges and lawyers often called on him for advice thereafter, and he was happy to oblige.

His view of the law is something I will always admire, and I know has inspired countless young judges and lawyers. He was fiercely protective of the interests of the people before him in the courtroom, acknowledging the heavy responsibility of representing the entire justice system. He didn't necessarily agree with every verdict, but he respected every verdict because he trusted the system.

Following his 40-year career as Circuit Court Judge, he served 3 years as a senior-status judge. At the time of his retirement, he was the longest sitting circuit judge in the State. In 1995, he was appointed to serve a 10-month term with the West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals. He was instrumental in the creation of the CASA Program, which provides a voice for abused and neglected children who find themselves in the court system, and it has changed countless lives for the better. Among his many recognitions, he was also rightfully nominated as a Marion County Public Servant of the Year.

What is most important is that Fred lived a full life, surrounded by dear friends, colleagues, and family. It is my hope that his loved ones are able to find peace, strength, and support in one another. This is a time to celebrate his life and legacy and to honor his memory in our thoughts and prayers. He touched countless lives, and his loss has left a deep void in our statewide community. He was a dear friend to Gayle and I and our family, and we will miss him dearly.

Again, I extend my most sincere condolences to his loving wife, Debra; his children Charlee Anne, Joseph, Logan, and Zach; his grandchildren Lindsay, Kelsey, Nick, and Benjamin; his sister Janie; and the entire Fox family. I am honored to join the people of West Virginia and beyond in recognizing Fred's memory, as well as the unwavering love he had for his family, friends, the judicial system, our State of West Virginia, and our great Nation. His legacy of service will live on forever.●

TRIBUTE TO PAUL J. TAVARES

● Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to a great friend and Rhode Islander, former general treasurer Paul J. Tavares. Paul and I ran for statewide office together in 1998. Fortunately, both of us won. Paul's campaign motto was "No tricks, no gimmicks, just a Treasurer who will do what is right." Paul had been a great State senator, and Rhode Islanders believed him—and he justified their faith.

Paul chalked up a strong record of accomplishment in the treasurer's office. Among his most notable achievements was the CollegeBoundfund, Rhode Island's 529 college savings program, one of the strongest such programs in the Nation. We worked together on reforming a broken crime victims' fund. When he retired after two terms, Paul had kept his promise as treasurer to leave the office in better shape than he found it.

In 2012, the Providence Housing Authority was in disarray and plagued by scandals. Providence's mayor, Angel Taveras, asked Paul to take over as interim executive director and clean up the mess. Paul promised he would. He quickly turned the agency around and ran it so well that city and housing authority officials convinced him to stay on. Paul recently told his colleagues in city government that it was time for him to go, and he will retire at the end of this year.

In his public life, Paul has been appointed to the East Providence School Committee; elected to the East Providence City Council, the Rhode Island Senate, and the office of the general treasurer; and appointed executive director of the East Providence and Providence housing authorities. In addition, Paul has given himself tirelessly to fraternal and charitable service in Rhode Island and is a loving father and husband. Someone once said there are three kinds of people in this world: those who make things happen, those who watch things happen, and those who wonder what happened. Paul made things happen, and his generosity and selflessness improved the lives of many Rhode Islanders.

As Paul retires from public service—once again—I thank him for being part of my life and for doing so much for our Ocean State. Paul fulfilled his pledge: There were no tricks, no gimmicks; just a public servant who did what was right. More importantly, Paul lives his life the same way: no tricks, no gimmicks, just a man who does what is right. He never took himself too seriously, never let positions of power go to his head, and never forgot where he came from. He is an example to me of doing it right.

Rhode Island is fortunate to have devoted, energetic, and generous citizens like Paul Tavares. Godspeed, my friend.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Cuccia, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT

ENROLLED JOINT RESOLUTION SIGNED

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2017, the Secretary of the Senate, on December 8, 2017, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the Speaker had signed the following enrolled joint resolution:

H.J. Res. 123. Joint resolution making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2018, and for other purposes.

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2017, the enrolled joint resolution was signed on December 8, 2017, during the adjournment of the Senate, by the Acting President pro tempore (Mr. STRANGE).

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 4:03 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 477. An act to amend the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934 to exempt from registration brokers performing services in connection with the transfer of ownership of smaller privately held companies.

H.R. 2658. An act to provide humanitarian assistance for the Venezuelan people, to defend democratic governance and combat widespread public corruption in Venezuela, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4300. An act to authorize the Pacific Historic Parks to establish a commemorative display to honor members of the United States Armed Forces who served in the Pacific Theater of World War II, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 477. An act to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to exempt from registration brokers performing services in connection with the transfer of ownership of smaller privately held companies; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 2658. An act to provide humanitarian assistance for the Venezuelan people, to defend democratic governance and combat